REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending. Claims 1, 12, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,751,657 to Zothner. Claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-20, 22-29, 31-38, and 41-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,657 to Zothner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,327,486 to Wolff. Claims 8-9, 21, 30, 39, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,657 to Zothner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,327,486 to Wolff and U.S. Patent No. 6,092,102 to Wagner.

Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is added. The rejections are traversed. Claims 1, 13, 22, 31, and 40 are amended. Claims 1-44 remain in the case for consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Referring to claim 1, the invention is directed toward a message-processing agent operable in a Scalable Infrastructure system further including a Community Service, the Community Service capable of cloning the message-processing agent, the message-processing agent comprising: a receiver designed to receive an object from a persistent store called a Space, the Space part of the Scalable Infrastructure system; a default routing identifying a destination for the object; a wrapper remover designed to remove a wrapper from the object; a wrapper adder designed to add a new wrapper to the object; and a routing module designed to route the object to the destination.

Referring to claim 40, the invention is directed toward a message-processing agent operable in a Scalable Infrastructure system further including a Community Service, the Community Service capable of cloning the message-processing agent, the message-processing agent comprising: a retriever designed to retrieve an object from a persistent store called a Space, the Space part of the Scalable Infrastructure system; a default routing identifying a destination for the object; a wrapper remover designed to remove a wrapper from the object; a wrapper adder designed to add a new wrapper to the object; and a routing module designed to route the object to the destination.

In contrast, Zothner teaches a system and method for providing notification services. Business rules are mapped to business triggers. When the triggers occur, appropriate information is sent to recipients using the business rules.

The Examiner asserts that Zothner describes a persistent store, and cites to column 10, lines 15-21, and column 7, lines 10-15. While column 7, line 13, does use the words

"persistent stores", column 10 does not mention the use of persistent stores. Instead, all that is mentioned in column 10 is the concept of a "persistent object" at lines 18-19.

The claims have been amended to further describe the Space. A specific feature of the Space is the Community Service, described at page 4, lines 12-24, is the ability to clone agents as needed for scalability. One such agent is the message processing agent claimed in the invention. Thus, the message-processing agent of the claims can be cloned by the Community Service.

Despite Zothner's brief mention of a "persistent store", Zothner does not further describe the environment in which such a "persistent store" could exist. First, Zothner does not describe any of its elements as an agent that can interact with, but be separate from, the Space. The Examiner has identified individual elements from Zothner that are similar to the features of the claimed invention, but these elements are not put together coherently by Zothner. In addition, the operation of these elements relate directly to the CORBA model, without which the elements do not operate.

The fact that Zothner does not teach an *agent* to perform message processing in the manner claimed is significant for the same reasons that Wolff and Theimer failed to teach or suggest the claimed invention, either separately or in combination, in the Response to Office Action dated March 16, 2004. As argued in the Response to Office Action dated March 16, 2004, neither Wolff nor Theimer taught or suggested the agent routing the object; they simply taught that the object was routed to its destination. The same argument applies here: Zothner does not teach an *agent* routing an object.

In fact, in Zothner there isn't even an "object". Notwithstanding that Zothner mentions "persistent stores", Zothner is not specific about the structure of the "persistent store". Zothner does not describe what is found in the "persistent store", or how those elements interact with the rest of the system. In fact, Zothner suggests to the contrary, in that Zothner maps "notifications to a notification trigger point" (column 3, lines 5-6). This suggests that the notifications themselves are generated automatically, and are not objects placed in the persistent store, as described in the specification and claimed in the invention.

The closest Zothner comes to describing what might be in his "persistent store" is in column 10, lines 9-34, where Zothner describes the Event Manager. Zothner says that the "Event Manager is a CORBA persistent object. [T]he Event Manager . . . creates new events, retrieves object references to existing events, forces event conflicts, and updates an the [*sic*] approval status on an event" (column 10, lines 18-23). This suggests that the Event Manager might exist in the "persistent store" (although Zothner is nowhere specific about this). But in

the claimed invention, the agent is not in the Space: the agent receives or retrieves objects *from* the Space. In other words, the objects that are to be routed are in the Space. Since Zothner does not teach or suggest objects as described in the claims, let alone that the objects are in the Space, Zothner cannot anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

The fact that Zothner fails to teach the features of the invention as an agent separate from the persistent store also implies a second weakness of Zothner: specifically, the capability of a Community Service capable of cloning a service. In the claimed invention, the Community Service is capable of cloning the message-processing agent to create new copies of the message-processing agent, if needed. But because the elements to which the Examiner points in Zothner are not a unified object, they cannot be cloned, as claimed. Thus, Zothner cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed.

Further features have also been added to claims 1 and 40: namely, the use of a wrapper adder and a wrapper remover. These elements are disclosed in the specification at page 6, lines 26-28 and 32-33, and page 7, lines 4-8. As described in the specification at these locations, one wrapper is removed from the object, and another wrapper is wrapped around (i.e., added to) the object. Zothner makes no mention of object wrappers at all, so the features of adding and removing wrappers from the object are features that are not anticipated or suggested by Zothner.
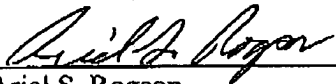
Accordingly, claims 1 and 40 include features not taught or suggested by Zothner. Therefore, claims 1, 12, and 40 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Zothner, and claims 1-12 and 40-44 are allowable.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner did not reject independent claims 13, 22, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). But in rejecting independent claims 13, 22, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner relies on Wolff solely for routing the object according to the preference setting. The Applicant refers to the arguments made in response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2004, wherein the Applicant argued that Wolff does not teach an agent routing the object. In addition, the Applicant asserts that the features discussed above are also not taught or suggested by Wolff. Thus, claims 13, 22, and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zothner in view of Wolff, and therefore claims 13-39 are allowable.
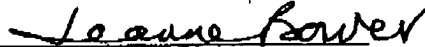
For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-44 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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